

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 05745 011554Z

51

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-11 IO-14 MED-03 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 SCA-01 SCI-06 USIA-15 PRS-01 CIAE-00 AID-20

FDRE-00 DODE-00 SCS-03 PC-10 EB-11 COME-00 AGR-20

DRC-01 /142 W

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R 011520Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4829

USPHS WASHDC

CDC ATLANTA GA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRASILIA 5745

FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM RIO DE JANEIRO DATED 31 JUL 74

ACTION BRASILIA INFO SAO PAULO BEING REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION:

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE RIO DE JANEIRO 2829

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:SWEL, BR

SUBJ: MENINGITIS

REF: RIO 2796; BRASCLIA 5684

1. FOLLOWING COMMENTS REGARDING CURRENT MENINGITIS PROBLEM IN BRAZIL WERE OBTAINED BY CONGEN OFFICER JULY 31 DIRECTLY FROM DR. VINICIUS WAGNER, DIRECTOR OF PROPHYAXIS DEPARTMENT OF MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND HEAD OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR CONTROL OF MENINGITIS, RECENTLY CREATED BY MINISTER OF HEALTH. COMMITTEE BEGAIN SESSION IN RIO JKLY 29.

2. THE OFFICIAL NOTE ISSUED BY MINISTRY OF HEALTH ON JULY 30 AND PUBLISHED IN JULY 31 PRESS REFLECTS ACCURATELY THE GENERAL PICTURE OF PROBLEM IN THE COUNTRY AS SEEN BY BRAZILIAN HEALTH
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PAGE 02 BRASIL 05745 011554Z

AUTHORITIES. ALTHOUGH STATISTICAL DATA ARE STILL BEING COLLECTED,

THE MINISTRY HAS SO FAR BEEN ABLE TO GATHER FOLLOWING SPECIFIC FACTS ABOUT PROBLEM:

(A) THE HEAVIEST INCIDENCE OF MENINGITIS THIS YEAR HAS OCCURRED IN SO-CALLED GREATER SAO PAULO AREA, I.E., IN CITY OF SAO PAULO AND NEIGHBORING TOWNS. NUMBER OF CASES IN THIS AREA HAS GREATLY EXCEEDED EXPECTATIONS FOR WINTER MONTHS AND HAS ASSUMED EPIDEMIC CHARACTER. AT PRESENT, THE SITUATION IS COMPLETELY UNDER CONTROL AND THE PICTURE IN INTERIOR OF THE STATE IS ABSOLUTELY NORMAL. OFFICIALLY, NUMBER OF PATIENTS INTERNED IN SAO PAULO HOSPITALS ON JULY 30 WAS 1,640.

(B) THERE WAS AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF CASES IN THE WESTERN PART OF PARANA, AS COMPARED WITH LAST YEAR, BUT SITUATION IS UNDER CONTROL.

(C) THERE WAS A MODERATE INCREASE IN NUMBER OF CASES IN STATE OF RIO GRANDE DO SUL, BUT SITUATION IS ALSO UNDER CONTROL.

(D) A SMALL INCREASE IN NUMBER OF CASES HAS OCCURRED IN GOIANIA. SITUATION IN THAT AREA, HOWEVER, IS UNDER CONTROL. ADDITIONALLY, BRAZILIAN HEALTH AUTHORITIES ARE CARRYING OUT A SURVEY IN THE AREA REGARDING EFFECTIVENESS OF VACCINE AND OTHER RELATED ISSUES.

(E) THERE WAS AN INCREASE IN INCIDENCE RATE IN SCBRADINHA, NEAR BRASILIA, BUT SITUATION IS COMPLETELY UNDER CONTROL.

(F) PICTURE OF THE PROBLEM IN THE REST OF THE COUNTRY, INCLUDING THE STATE OF GUANABARA, IS NORMAL AND NUMBER OF CASES IS WITHIN EXPECTATIONS.

(G) MORTALITY RATE AS A RESULT OF MENINGITIS IN WHOLE COUNTRY HAS BEEN SMALLER THAN WOULD NORMALLY BE EXPECTED UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES. NO COUNTRY-WIDE TABULATION OF NUMBER OF DEATHS APPEARED TO BE READILY AVAILABLE.

(H) PEAK OF MENINGITIS NORMALLY OCCURS AT END OF 3-YEAR CYCLE. SINCE THE PRESENT CYCLE IN GREATER SAO PAULO AREA STARTED IN 1971, THE INCIDENCE OF DISEASE IS EXPECTED TO DECLINE IN THAT AREA STARTING THIS SUMMER, I.E., DECEMBER 1974.
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PAGE 03 BRASIL 05745 011554Z

(I) GREATEST OVERALL INCIDENCE OF MENINGITIS IN COUNTRY HAS BEEN FOUND IN THE 0 - 15-YEAR AGE BRACKET.

(J) AS SOON AS MINISTRY OF HEALTH HAS BEEN ABLE TO COLLECT FURTHER DATA, THEY WILL BE RELEASED. MILLER UNQUOTE
CRIMMINS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISEASE CONTROL, PRESS COMMENTS, DATA, COMMUNICABLE DISEASES, EPIDEMICS, MENINGITIS, SOCIAL PROBLEMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BRASIL05745
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740209-1243
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740785/aaaacuxm.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: RIO 2796; BRASCLIA 5684
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 SEP 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <14 FEB 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MENINGITIS
TAGS: SWEL, BR, (WAGNER, VINICIUS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005